

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/657,087 Confirmation No.: 9855
Applicant : HEINO, et al.
Filed : September 9, 2003
Title : BIOABSORBABLE BAND SYSTEM
Art Unit : 3775
Examiner : Jay R. Sigler

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 23313-1450

EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
GROUP 3775

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION UNDER 37 CFR 1.116

Sir:

In response to the Final Rejection of April 14, 2009, for which a response is due by July 14, 2009 with no extension of time, Applicants submit the following amendment and respectfully request reconsideration.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 4 of this paper.

Amendments to the Drawings begin on page 6.

Remarks begin on page 7.

An **Appendix** including amended drawing figures is attached following page 10.